

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10696

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: ROUND-UP ON JEWISH DISSIDENCE

REF: MOSCOW 9808

1. THE GORELIK-FAYRMARK TRIALS (REFTEL) ARE LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE THIS WEEK. SEVERAL PROMINENT JEWISH DISSIDENT SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE GORELIK TRIAL WILL BE FIRST, AND THAT HE WILL BE TRIED ON A CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER. THERE IS ONE RUMOR THAT FAYRMARK WILL BE CALLED AS THE CHIEF WITNESS AGAINST GORELIK, IN RETURN FOR WHICH HE WILL BE TREATED MORE LENIENTLY WHEN HIS OWN TRIAL (PROBABLY ON CHARGES OF STEALING STATE PROPERTY OR POSSESSING ILLEGAL BOOKS) TAKES PLACE.

2. THE CASE OF THE YOUNG DISSIDENT FROM MINSK, ARRESTED AFTER HE HAD REFUSED TO REPORT FOR MILITARY SERVICE, HAS TAKEN AN UNUSUAL TURN. WE WERE INFORMED THAT SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARREST THE YOUNG MAN WENT ON A HUNGER STRIKE IN PRISON AND REFUSED EVEN WATER. ALTHOUGH PRISON AUTHORITIES WERE FINALLY ABLE TO ADMINISTER LIQUIDS, THE YOUNG MAN REPORTEDLY CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO EAT AND BECAME SO WEAK THAT THE AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. THE MINSK JEWISH COMMUNITY, LED IN THIS CASE BY THE ONE REMAINING "MINSK COLONEL," REPORTEDLY ASSURED THE AUTHORITIES THAT THEY WOULD

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MAKE A MAJOR "SCANDAL" SHOULD THE YOUNG MAN DIE.

WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE, THE MINSK AUTHORITIES PUT THE
YOUNG MAN ON THE TRAIN TO VIENNA SOME FIVE DAYS AGO,
AND HE HAS ALREADY TELEPHONED FROM ISRAEL THAT HE IS
SAFE. MOSCOW DISSIDENT CIRCLES HAVE YET TO EXPLAIN
SATISFACTORILY TO THEMSELVES WHAT IT WAS THAT MADE
THE MINSK AUTHORITIES GIVE IN. THEY ARE, HOWEVER,
EXTREMELY PLEASED AT THIS DEVELOPMENT.
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